



Department of Defense **DIRECTIVE**

March 24, 1997
NUMBER 1205.18

ASD(RA)

SUBJECT: Full-Time Support (**FTS**) to the Reserve Components

- References: (a) DoD Directive 1205.18, "Full-Time Support to the Reserve Components," September 20, 1988 (hereby canceled)
- (b) DoD Directive 1215.6, "Uniform Reserve, Training and Retirement Categories," December 18, 1990
 - (c) Title 10, United States Code
 - (d) Title 32, United States Code
 - (e) Title 5, United States Code
 - (f) Title 14, United States Code

A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a), updates policy, and assigns responsibilities for managing the **FTS** program in the Reserve components.

B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the **Office** of the Secretary of Defense; the Military Departments, including the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a Military Service in the Navy by agreement with the Department of Transportation; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of **Staff**; the Combatant commands; and the Defense Agencies. The term "Military Departments," as used herein, refers to the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The term "Secretary concerned" refers to the Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Secretary of Transportation, including the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a Service in the Navy. The term "Military Services" refers to the **Army**, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

C. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Directive are defined in enclosure 1 and in reference (b).

D. POLICY

It is DoD policy:

1. To maintain a cadre of FTS personnel who **are** responsible for assisting in the organization, administration, **recruitment**, instruction, **training**, maintenance and supply support to the Reserve components. The mix of **FTS** personnel, which consists of active component

(AC) personnel, Active Guard and Reserve (**AGR**) personnel, military technicians (MT), and other Federal civilian (**CIV**) employees, shall be determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned to optimize consistency and stability for each Reserve component to achieve its assigned missions.

2. To maintain an **FTS** force capable of ensuring the accomplishment of the following Reserve component readiness goals:

- a. Mobilizing and enhancing the deployability of Reserve component units and personnel.
- b. Achieving established unit readiness and deployability standards.
- c. Training Selected Reserve personnel in their military occupations to ensure their skill qualification and readiness when they are involuntarily activated or when they volunteer.
- d. Recruiting and manning Reserve component units.
- e. Maintaining unit equipment, facilities, supplies, and records.
- f. Providing Reserve component advice, expertise, and liaison to AC activities and assisting in the development of policy and procedures affecting the Reserve components.
- g. Providing AC experience, advice, doctrinal expertise, and liaison to Reserve component units.

3. That centralized administrative and operational headquarters and support functions use **FTS** personnel consistent with Reserve component readiness requirements, DoD manpower determination requirements, applicable laws, and fiscal and manpower constraints to ensure that such organizations function at the most efficient and cost-effective manning level, thus maximizing the readiness of the units they support.

4. To assign or attach AGR, MT, and AC personnel to designated **FTS** billets in Reserve component units and organizations. Personnel so assigned or attached shall meet mobilization and deployment standards, and shall mobilize and deploy according to the policy in this section. MT manpower requirements will entail a wartime and mobilization tasking.

5. That **FTS** positions requiring current military expertise, as determined by the Secretary concerned, shall be filled by AGR, MT, or AC personnel. Other **FTS** positions not requiring current military expertise shall be filled by **CIV** personnel or technicians previously exempted from the dual status requirement consistent with the definitions in section C., above.

6. That AGR programs in each Military Service shall be administered as career programs that may lead to a military retirement after attaining the required years of active Federal service. **Personnel** shall not be accessed into the AGR program unless they are able to serve in that

program for 5 consecutive years before reaching eligibility for **regular** retirement. That policy applies regardless of the AGR statutory authority under which the Service member is to be placed, except that occasional tours, one-time tours, or tours of duty in AGR status as a part of an active duty and Reserve duty exchange program may be outside the AGR career program, but shall be a constructive part of the individual's overall Reserve career program. Such occasional, one-time, or exchange tours may be extended for not more than one normal tour length.

7. That AGR personnel, except Coast Guard RPAs, shall be counted against authorized Selected Reserve end strengths as authorized by the Congress each year for their respective Reserve **component**; against the authorized end strengths for Reserve component members on active duty or full-time National Guard duty in support of the Reserve component; and, if applicable, against the by-grade congressional authorizations for the grades of E-8, E-9, O-4, O-5, and O-6.

8. That supervisory authority for **FTS** members shall correspond with military operational lines of authority.

9. To assign AC personnel who possess expertise and recent experience in AC training and doctrine to provide advice, liaison, management, administration, training, and support to the Reserve component.

10. That the military nature of the technician program is paramount over all other considerations, and that the management of **MTs** and **CIV personnel** shall be as follows:

a. MTs shall, as a condition of civilian employment, maintain dual status as a member of the Selected Reserve component by which employed and shall remain qualified in both their civilian and military positions. **MTs** shall maintain active status in the Reserve component unit in which they are employed as a civilian, or one which they are employed to support (Army non unit MTs must maintain membership in the Selected Reserve component by which employed). The skill requirements of the military and civilian positions for MTs shall be compatible.

b. Loss of Selected Reserve membership by an **MT** shall result in removal from the MT program in accordance with 10 U.S.C. (reference (c)) and 32 U.S.C. 709 (reference (d)).

c. Applicable to the category of civilian personnel concerned, programs for civilian **FTS** personnel in each Service shall provide the opportunity for promotion, career progression, retention, education, professional development, consistent with strength limitations, policy in this section (section D.), and **DoD** civilian **personnel** policy. Career programs should be structured such that they provide for both the civilian and military career needs of **FTS** personnel, as applicable.

d. **MTs** shall be called or ordered to active duty with the unit to which they are assigned in a military capacity when such units are activated. During inactive duty training and annual training, **MTs** shall perform training in their assigned military position. MTs shall not perform their civilian duties during such training unless the duties are identical.

e. MTs participating in unit deployments, direct support of contingency operations, or operations or support in hostile fire areas outside the United States, its territories and possessions shall perform those operations or that support in a military status under 10 U.S.C. (reference (c)). Duty status for MTs performing other missions or support outside the United States and its territories and possessions shall be according to policy established by the Secretary concerned.

f. **MTs** shall be used to maximize readiness, and priority for unit/organization resourcing shall be given to high priority and early deploying units in accordance with Section 10216 of reference (c).

g. In accordance with 32 U.S.C. (reference (d)), except as otherwise **required** by law, **MTs** shall be managed as a separate category of dual-status civilian personnel and shall be exempt from any requirement imposed by law, or otherwise, for reductions in DoD civilian **personnel** and shall be reduced only as a direct result of military force structure reductions.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

a. Provide overall policy guidance for the management of the Reserve component **FTS** program.

b. Monitor compliance with this Directive and develop procedures, as necessary, to ensure an effective **FTS** program and submit reports in accordance with reference (c).

2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall establish procedures to

a. Develop **FTS** programs and structures, to be managed by the chiefs of their respective Reserve components, that support mission requirements and provide the applicable allocation and mix of **FTS** categories to achieve readiness and deployability requirements of Reserve component forces.

b. Implement the policy in section D., above, for the management and employment of **FTS** personnel and define the data needed for effective **FTS** program oversight and require its periodic collection and monitoring.

c. Ensure that **FTS personnel** are provided career opportunities, applicable to the category of employment for promotion, career progression, retention, education, and professional development consistent with strength limitations and the policy established in section D., above. The Secretaries concerned shall establish **specific** criteria for retention of AGR personnel on completion of any probationary period that has been established (not to exceed 6 years). Continuation beyond the initial probationary period, either through an extension of original

orders to the initial AGR position or assignment to a follow-on position, constitutes retention and shall require subsequent management under the career program established in accordance with subsection D.6., above. The probationary period shall commence not earlier than the effective date of this Directive.

d. Ensure that the skill requirements of the civilian and military positions of MT's (when **MTs** are assigned or attached) are compatible, and that AGR members are assigned to validated Reserve positions that **are** compatible with their military grade and skill codes.

e. Conduct an annual review of the utilization of **FTS** members and accomplish the reporting requirements established in 10 U.S.C. 10216 (reference (c)).

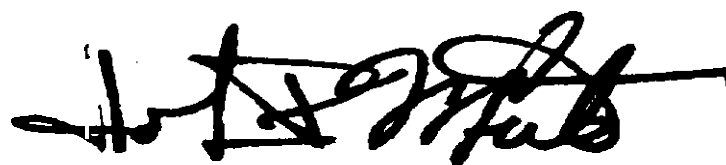
f. Ensure that all **FTS** positions that do not require military **FTS** personnel are filled by **CIV** personnel or technicians previously exempted from the dual status requirement consistent with section C., above.

g. Establish Service policy for implementing MT military leave under 5 U.S.C. 6323(d) (reference (e)), ensuring that such policy applies equally to all **MTs** required as a condition of employment to be members of the Selected Reserve.

h. Consistent with the **definitions** in section C., above, establish policies that may, on a case by case basis, exempt certain MT employed before December 8, 1983 from the requirement that they maintain dual status as military members of the unit by which employed or a unit they are employed to support.

F. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



John P. White
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosure
Definitions

DEFINITIONS

1. Active Component (AC) FTS Personnel. AC members paid from AC military personnel appropriations assigned or attached to Reserve component organizations or units by their respective Service to provide advice, liaison, management, administration, training, and support as a category of **FTS**. Those personnel are not members of the Selected Reserve but may deploy with their assigned unit when mobilization occurs. AC personnel who shall mobilize with the Reserve component unit to which assigned are counted as part of the Reserve component trained strength in units, but are not included in the Selected Reserve strengths.
2. Active Guard and Reserve (AGR). Members of a Reserve component on active duty under 10 U.S.C. 12301 (reference (c)), 14 U.S.C (reference (f)), or full-time National Guard duty under 32 U.S.C. 502(f) (reference (d)) for a period of 180 consecutive days or more for organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing or training the Reserve components, in accordance with Subsection 101(d)(6) of reference (c). Navy Training and Administration of the Reserves (TAR) and Canvasser/Recruiters, Marine Corps Active Reserves (AR), and Coast Guard Reserve program Administrators (**RPAs**) are included in this definition.
3. Federal Civilian Employees (CIV) in FTS. Personnel hired under 5 U.S.C. 3101 (reference (e)) to provide administration, training, maintenance, and recruiting support to the Reserve components. Membership in the Selected Reserve is not a condition of CIV employment.
4. Full-Time Support (FTS). Members of the Reserve components or AC, and CIV personnel, assigned to organize; **administer; instruct;** recruit and train; maintain supplies, equipment, and aircraft; and perform other **functions** required on a daily basis in the execution of operational missions and readiness preparation. Collectively, **FTS** personnel consist of four categories that are AGR, **MTs**, AC personnel, and **CIV** employees.
5. Military Technician (MT). A civilian employee of the Military Department concerned who, except as specified below, is required as a condition of employment to maintain military membership in a Reserve component identified in reference (c) and who is assigned to a position as a technician in the administration and training of such Reserve component, or in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to such Reserve component. The military and civilian position skills of MTs must be compatible. MTs who maintain Reserve component military membership are also called dual status technicians. MTs in the Reserve components other than the Army National Guard and Air National Guard are appointed to positions in the competitive service under reference (e). National Guard M'Ts are appointed under Section 709 of reference (d) by the Adjutant General of the State or territory in whose National Guard they are employed. Certain **MTs** employed before September 1, 1970 are not required to maintain military membership. Certain MTs employed between September 1, 1970 and December 8, 1983 are not required to maintain military membership in the unit by which “employed or in a unit they are employed to support. All MTs hired on or after December 8, 1983 are required to maintain military membership in a Reserve component unit by which employed or in a unit they are employed to support except that Army MTs employed in areas other than Reserve component units need only be members of the Selected Reserve. All M'Ts hired on or after February 10, 1996 are required to maintain military membership in the Selected Reserve so that the position skills of their military and civilian positions are compatible.